



# CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 20-164, FD1

## RESOLUTION

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URGING THE GOVERNOR TO TAKE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO LIMIT TRAVEL-RELATED SPREAD OF COVID-19 TO KEEP OAHU SAFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor David Ige ("Governor") issued a Proclamation declaring the existence of a state of emergency in the State of Hawaii ("State") due to the COVID-19 outbreak and invoking his authority under the Hawaii Emergency Management Act, HRS Chapter 127A; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, the Governor issued a Second Supplementary Proclamation requiring, subject to limited exceptions, all persons entering the State to be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine, effective March 26, 2020, which resulted in a dramatic reduction of visitors to the Hawaiian islands; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the quarantine, the State has been conducting temperature screenings for passengers at its airports; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2020, the Governor announced that as of August 1, 2020, the mandatory 14-day quarantine will be waived for persons entering the State if they can provide proof of a negative approved PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test for COVID-19 taken within 72 hours of their departure for Hawaii and that, in addition to the existing temperature screenings, arriving passengers will be required to fill out a health questionnaire; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has stated that 25 percent to 45 percent of persons infected by COVID-19 may be asymptomatic, but can still transmit the virus to others; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 may also be transmitted by persons who are presymptomatic; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by John Hopkins Medicine has shown that one type of commonly used COVID-19 test produces a false negative result at a rate of at least 20 percent, depending on the time of testing; and

WHEREAS, a brief published by the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawaii ("UHERO") concluded that 6,000 daily arrivals to Hawaii would result in 750 additional active COVID-19 infections in residents and visitors each month, even if those visitors are screened for temperature and symptoms; and



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WHEREAS, the UHERO brief emphasizes that conservative visitor arrival estimates were used and that the number of arrivals, and the resulting active infections, may be much higher than predicted; and

WHEREAS, since the Governor's announcement that interstate and international arrivals would be able to avoid the State's mandatory quarantine, as of August 1, by presenting a negative PCR test result and meeting the other conditions specified in the Governor's June 24 announcement, the numbers of new cases of COVID-19 in 37 mainland states (notably California, Texas, Florida, and Arizona) have, instead of flattening as had been expected, been rising, with fifty thousand new mainland cases being reported daily and half a million new cases being reported nationally since June 26 according to a *New York Times* report, and meanwhile the number of new cases reported daily in Hawaii (particularly on Oahu) has jumped significantly from an average of fewer than 10 new cases per day in May and June to roughly 20 new cases per day in July, with a new high of 41 new cases being reported on July 7, 38 of those cases being Oahu residents; and

WHEREAS, given the troubling numbers both on the mainland and here in Hawaii, presenting a heightened risk of importation of COVID-19 by presymptomatic and asymptomatic travelers, the Council believes it would be prudent for the Governor to reconsider the plan to allow the mandatory 14-day quarantine to be bypassed beginning on August 1, and to delay implementation of the plan until the numbers of new cases on the mainland and in Hawaii have dropped significantly; and

WHEREAS, given the potential for transmission from asymptomatic persons infected with COVID-19, the high false negative rate for some COVID-19 tests, and the estimated increase in active COVID-19 infections, the City Council finds that additional safeguards should be considered for implementation before allowing visitors and returning residents to bypass the 14-day mandatory quarantine; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Governor is urged to seriously consider delaying the implementation of his plan to allow bypassing of the mandatory quarantine for incoming passengers until such time, after the announced August 1 start date, that the recent surges in COVID-19 cases on the mainland and in Hawaii have abated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the August 1 start date is not delayed, the Governor is urged to take additional measures, in addition to requiring a negative COVID-19 test prior to boarding, temperature screening, and administration of a health questionnaire, in order to limit the travel-related spread of COVID-19 and keep Oahu residents safe; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those measures, applicable equally to visitors and returning Hawaii residents, should include the following:

1. Requiring incoming travelers with a negative pre-boarding test to submit to a second, follow-up test within seven days of the initial test in order to confirm the negative result (test to be paid from an additional incoming passenger fee);
2. Working with private laboratories already processing tests in Hawaii to significantly ramp up testing capacity;
3. Implementing effective tracking and contact tracing of incoming passengers as recommended in the UHERO brief, including developing a mobile phone application, or "app," to track and trace persons with whom an infected traveler has come into contact, and mandating its use by travelers;
4. Developing a surveillance system to monitor high-risk settings in the tourism industry and providing testing for industry employees who come into frequent contact with visitors;
5. Ensuring that the systems and resources are in place to effectively enforce the mandatory 14-day self-quarantine for travelers who have not undergone and passed pre-boarding testing; and
6. Ensuring that information about the pre-boarding test requirement and these additional measures is well publicized to alert those with plans to travel to Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that unless all of the above mentioned additional safety measures are instituted, the Governor is urged to ensure that the mandatory 14-day quarantine remains in effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii should consider various funding sources for increasing COVID-19 testing capacity, including, but not limited to: fees charged to visitors, monies from the State of Hawaii's General Fund, Transient Accommodations Tax revenues, surcharges on airline tickets and the sale of merchandise at Hawaii airports, and federal funding approved by the U.S. Congress for states and municipalities to expand testing capacity; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii and the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ron Menor

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

July 2, 2020  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII  
C E R T I F I C A T E

RESOLUTION 20-164, FD1

Introduced: 07/02/20 By: RON MENOR

Committee: COUNCIL

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR TO TAKE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO LIMIT TRAVEL-RELATED SPREAD OF COVID-19 TO KEEP OAHU SAFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE.

Voting Legend: \* = Aye w/Reservations

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07/08/20	COUNCIL	AMENDED TO HAND-CARRIED FD1 (OCS2020-0672/7/8/2020 8:54 AM). 9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS. RESOLUTION 20-164, FD1 WAS ADOPTED. 9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS.
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I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.

  
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GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK

  
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IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER